FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 SEPTEMBER 1984

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Attacks on Vessels — Two vessels were hit in separate attacks on 16 September by "unidentified planes" in the southern Persian Gulf, Tehran radio reported citing Bahrain shipping sources quoted by REUTER. Lloyd's of London confirmed that the Liberian-registered *Med Heron* and the Sri Lankan-registered *Royal Colombo* were attacked in the Gulf, AFP noted. Radio Monte Carlo speculated that Iranian Planes were involved in the attacks.

In a related development, Lloyd's also confirmed that an FRG ship chartered by Iran sank on 13 September near the Nowruz oil fields northeast of Khark Island after it had been hit by an Iraqi missile, INA reported. The FRG subsequently protested to Iraq over the attack on the West German ship, DPA noted. Earlier, London PRESS ASSOCIATION transmitted a British Foreign Office statement that protested an Iraqi attack on the German-owned Panamanian-registered *Seetrans 21* on 12 September south of Khark Island, which killed three British citizens.

In a separate attack, Iranian planes "pounded" the Iraqi Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah oil jetties in the northern Persian Gulf on 16 September, according to IRNA citing the Iranian Joint Staff Command.

Hijackings — Iraqi "security men" killed three Iranians during a foiled attempt to hijack an Iraqi airliner while over Syria on 15 September, the Iraqi transport minister announced in a statement to INA. He stated that the incident aboard the Cyprus-Baghdad flight was an attempt by Iran to "mitigate the impact" caused by the recent hijackings of three Iranian planes to Iraq. Tehran radio cited an AP report that the plane was over Jordan when three Lebanese and Cypriot hijackers were wounded. An Iranian Foreign Ministry official later denied Iran's involvement in the incident, claiming that it was a "conspiracy" by Iraq to divert the world's attention, the radio noted. The official pointed out that Iran condemns "all acts of air piracy." Meanwhile, the passengers of one of the Iranian planes recently hijacked to Iraq returned to Iran on 15 September aboard a Lebanese plane, IRNA reported.

Mecca Incident — Iranian pilgrims in Mecca who were demonstrating against Saudi "discrimination" were attacked on 13 September by "Saddamist regime lackeys," who were given "every assistance" by Saudi security forces, resulting in the wounding of a number of the Iranians, Tehran radio's Arabic service reported. One of the injured later died, IRNA noted, and the Iranian Foreign Ministry protested to Saudi Arabia over the "inhumanistic and non-Islamic act," which was undertaken by those who had been "slapped in the face" by the "magnificent demonstrations" in Mecca and Medina. An Iranian official stated that the "premeditated crime" was carried out with the support of Saudi officials, and that the Saudi Government will be responsible for any incident which might result from the "anger" of Muslim pilgrims, Tehran radio reported. A group of Iraqi pilgrims were detained by Saudi officials, but then were released because of lack of evidence, SPA reported citing an Interior Ministry statement. The statement also reported that Iraqi pilgrims were injured in the incident as well.

Meanwhile, four other Iranian pilgrims died in Mecca from natural causes on 11 and 12 September, according to IRNA. All of the remaining Iranian pilgrims in Mecca are expected to leave by 18 September, the agency added.

Israel

Reactions to Coalition — Commenting on the formation of the new Israeli Cabinet, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali stated that Egypt's stand toward Israel has not changed and is still based on withdrawal from Lebanon and negotiations on the Tabah question and Palestinian affairs, Cairo radio noted. A commentary broadcast by the radio pointed out that the coalition government was formed "at the expense of a painful compromise" by both factions, and that the road to peace and stability "will remain open" to an Israeli Government.

A Damascus radio commentary stated that any Israeli Government will be "hostile and expansionist," and that the present development is only a new move by the United States in the area. The radio cited the Damascus paper *AL-BA'TH*'s contention that the region will experience a "state of extreme tension, troubles, and policies of aggression and expansion" as a result of the new Cabinet.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri stated in an interview broadcast by Amman television that he had been expecting the policies of the two parties to be "identical," and this was demonstrated by their agreement on various issues. He speculated that the government's main task will be of an economic rather than political nature. An Amman radio commentary affirmed that Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' call for peace "cannot serve the peace process" as long as Israel adheres to the policy of "expansionism, aggression, and colonialism."

Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio, stated that there is "no great difference between the past and present," and that the new government will not bring "great hope" for "just and comprehensive" solutions because Israel seeks to "dominate and control" the region.

Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, reiterated in a statement to WAFA cited by Baghdad Voice of PLO that the two coalition parties are "two sides of the same coin," and that the new government's basis is war. He added that the policy of settlements and "terrorism" means that the two parties reject peace in the Middle East.

Devaluation — The shekel was devalued on 16 September by 9 percent as an "anticipatory step" toward the comprehensive economic plan, Jerusalem radio reported. The price of fuel also was increased by 9 percent, the radio added.

Mayor Assassinated — The authorities have detained four people suspected of assassinating the mayor of Rafah, in Gaza, on 14 September, Jerusalem radio reported. Baghdad Voice of PLO radio claimed that PLO "revolutionaries" carried out a "death sentence" on the Rafah mayor, who was a "Zionist enemy agent."

Egypt

Egypt plans to make a "new move" to help solve the Palestinian problem and establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid disclosed in a foreign policy statement carried by MENA. He said the move will aim to "crystallize definite ideas that will be accepted in principle by the various parties."

Lebanon

Military Situation — A Voice of Lebanon radio report that Israeli planes raided positions in the Al-Biqa' valley on 15 September was not confirmed or mentioned by monitored Israeli and Syrian media. The Voice of Lebanon's report, which cited "security sources," spoke of an air raid on armed positions in the Dayr al-Ghazal area. The radio subsequently reported that Israeli planes overflying Ba'labakk during the Syrian defense minister's visit there were subjected to intensive antiaircraft fire. In another development, a Lebanese military source cited by Beirut radio announced that an unidentified gunboat fired at the military beach in West Beirut on 14 September. "Informed security sources" said the vessel belonged to the Phalangist militias based in Al-Jiyah, south of Beirut, according to the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio.

Syrian Political Role — A Syrian military delegation met with President Amin al-Jumayyil and Lebanese Army commanders in Bikfayya on 14 September for talks aimed at finalizing moves to implement the Mountain security plan, Beirut radio reported. The Syrian delegation also held talks with Progressive Socialist Party and Amal Movement officials in Shtawrah, the clandestine Voice of The Mountain radio noted. Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri subsequently left "unexpectedly" for Damascus to consult with the Syrian leaders, according to the Voice of Lebanon. Meanwhile, Damascus radio announced that Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's mediation efforts had succeeded in producing an agreement between the warring factions in Tripoli: The Islamic Unification Movement and the Arab Democratic Party. A comprehensive agreement between the two sides will be signed on 17 September, the radio disclosed.

Afghanistan-Pakistan

Pakistan protested the violation of Pakistani airspace by Afghan planes on 14 September, according to an official announcement in Islamabad cited by Karachi radio. The planes dropped bombs near a border town in northern Waziristan, but there were no casualties, the radio noted. Afghanistan was warned that the "situation may worsen" if such violations are not halted, and that Kabul will be "fully responsible."

In a separate development, USSR Deputy Premier Ziya Nuriyev left Kabul for Moscow after attending a commission for economic cooperation, Kabul radio reported.

Morocco

The center-left Constitutional Union won the most seats in the legislative elections on 14 September, according to an announcement by Interior Minister Driss Basri broadcast by Rabat radio. Eight of the 12 parties won seats among the 199 places being contested.

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Babrak Karmal Chairs Politburo Session
LD162048 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Sep 84

[Text] A routine session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was chaired by Comrade Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council. The following topics were discussed and necessary decisions were made:

1. A report by Comrade Shah Mohammad Dost, DRA foreign affairs minister, to the Politburo session was heard. It concerned the third round of talks, mediated by UN Envoy Diego Cordovez, between the DRA delegation and the delegation of Pakistan,held in adjacent rooms of the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva from 25 to 31 August. Shah Mohammad Dost said that during this round of talks issues concerning the cessation of interferences against the DRA, which have been carried out primarily from Pakistan soil, the provision of international guarantees for the cessation and nonrepetetion of such interferences and others, were discussed. During the talks once again the good will and desire of the DRA Government for direct talks between the delegations of the two countries, which is the only way to a speedy and effective political solution of the issues, was expressed. It was decided that, in order to continue the process of negotiations, another round of talks should be held at the beginning of 1985 between the DRA and Pakistani delegations. The report presented by Comrade Shah Mohammad Dost and the activities of the Afghan delegation in the Geneva talks were considered by the Politburo session and were completely affirmed and supported.

Assessing the report, Comrade Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council said:

The root causes of the situations around Afghanistan are various interferences and aggressions, including armed interference by international imperialism, headed by the United States imperialism, and reaction against the DRA. The undeclared war of imperialism and reaction against Afghanistan is not only continuing but has been intensified. Counterrevolutionary bands have been armed with various modern weapons. The number of training camps for counterrevolutionary terrorists in Pakistan, the Sinkiang Province of China and Iran have increased. Interferences by Pakistan, Iran, and China and the satanical aggressive role played by the United States, under the Reagan administration, in the affairs of the DRA, have been extraordinarily escalated.

Comrade Babrak Karmal said: While we desire the solution of the issues of Afghanistan through direct, realistic and constructive talks, and our stand on this is firm, realistic and flexibile within the bounds of principle, we shall not even for a moment forget our duty towards intensifying the resolute struggle against the counterrevolutionary bands and putting an end to the aggression of imperialism and reaction in Afghanistan by various means, primarily through armed struggle.

2. In the Politburo session the topic of strengthening the protection and defense of the DRA borders was seriously discussed. In accordance with instructions by Comrade Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, measures were taken towards the speedy implementation of this great task, which must be rendered by the revolutionary state, party and state activists, and the DRA Armed Forces.

Comrade Babrak Karmal said: The armed aggression by the counterrevolution against the national democratic sovereignty of our revolutionary state, is in essence the elimination of the freedom and national independence of the people of Afghanistan by imperialist forces of the region, including the hegemonist regime of China, carried out from abroad. Extensive assistance is given by international imperialism and reaction, most of all the United States, which spends billions of dollars in support of the Afghanistan counterrevolution. Other NATO countries, China, Pakistan, Iran, and the reactionary Arab regimes provide the opportunity for the counterrevolutionary bands to be armed with advanced and compiicated weapons, thus engaging in murder and plunder, creating obstacles in the way of the people trying to build a new life.

Thousands of agents and a large number of caravans of modern, heavy and advanced weapons, equipment and other tools are sent to the DRA territory from the camps and training centers in Pakistan and Iran for military aims and armed unjust war. Also the training of terrorist agents in bases in China and a number of other countries has been expanded. The fact of the matter is that if the counterrevolutionaries in Afghanistan were not supported and infiltrated by imperialist forces and regional reaction, which is taking place by way of Iran and Pakistan, they would have been decisively eliminated much earlier. It is in accordance with the high interests of the revolutionary people of Afghanistan to effectively defend the borders of the country; defend the freedom, national independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty as a nonaligned country; and completely crush the counterrevolution. The infiltration of bands and the caravans of weapons should be prevented from Pakistan, which has been transformed into a fundamental base for interference by the forces of reaction, imperialism and China and also from Iran, where aggression and interference have been intensified.

Comrade Babrak Karmal said: The revolutionary forces of our people and their heroic Armed Forces, under the leadership of the PDPA and with the fraternal and internationalist assistance of the great Soviet Union, are able to defend the independence, national sovereignty, and freedom of the DRA workers. No one is able to eliminate the gains of revolution and our national democratic sovereignty. This is the command of history, the experience of the world revolution and the will of our people, party and revolutionary state.

3. The Politburo session discussed further improving work with citizen volunteer units and the armed groups belonging to the state. It is known that various and numerous groups previously deceived and linked to different groups, have been organized in defending the revolution and are cooperating with the revolutionary state. This matter indicates that more and more groups of people, more than ever before, are realizing the righteousness of the revolution and the popular aims of the party and revolutionary state. It is necessary that this process be expanded

and necessary steps be taken towards recruiting all deceived groups for defending the revolution and its gains and for implementing peaceful and useful works for the people.

Assessing this matter, Comrade Babrak Karmal said: The process of armed counterrevolutionary groups joining the revolutionary state has a great social and political importance and as a result popular power is being widened and consolidated from day to day.

Considering the views and instructions of Comrade Babrak Karmal, the Politburo formalised in a resolution the tasks which the party, state and Armed Forces and the people responsible for the local organs of the state power and administration ought to begin without delay. Also in the recent [as heard] session of the Politburo a number of other important internal and international issues in the life of the party and state were discussed and assessed.

Delhi: Karmal Supports Indian Unity
BK161630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Sep 84

[Text] President Babrak Karmal of Afghanistan says that consolidation of India's national unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity is vital for the stabilization of peace in the region and the world.

In an interview with All India Radio special correspondent Premchand Arya, who was recently in Kabul, he said in the present tense world situation a great danger is threatening both Afghanistan and India. India's positive stand on various world issues like peace, disarmament, international economic cooperation, and its faithfulness to the principles of nonalignment are of great importance. India and Afghanistan have a common approach on them.

President Karmal said in Afghanistan's present difficult conditions, India's economic assistance and cooperation under the Indo-Afghan Joint Economic Commission play a major role in its development.

In answer to a question, President Karmal said the main achievement of the Afghan revolution has been the consolidation of political sovereignty of the working people. This has resulted in real democratic freedom.

President Karmal alleged that there are 117 military training camps of what he called the counterrevolution in some countries neighboring Afghanistan. He accused some Western powers of spending millions of dollars and training people in these camps. The Afghan president said his is a small country and it cannot face such aggressive acts unaided. The limited Soviet force in Afghanistan has come at the request of the legitimate government. When the need for inviting them no longer exists, Afghanistan and the Soviet Union can discuss the question of the return of these limited contingents to the Soviet Union, President Karmal said.

President's Greetings Conveyed to Banow Populace
LD141413 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Sep 84

[Text] Greetings and best wishes from Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, were conveyed at a meeting yesterday to the elders, chiefs, and working people of Banow, Baghlan Province, and to officers and men of the Armed Forces in this district, by Brigadier General Yasin Sadeqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and head of the Army's Political Affairs Department. They welcomed these greetings warmly with a show of patriotic feelings.

At this meeting which was held in the district headquarters, Yasin Sadeqi conversed with the elders and working people of this district and assessed their demands and proposals. He gave the necessary instructions to the respective officials regarding the fulfillment of these demands.

According to another report, a session of the members of the joint headquarters, Badakhshan Province, was held yesterday, attended by Brigadier General Mohammad Yasin Sadeqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and head of the Army's Political Affairs Department. At this session which was also attended by Brigadier General Mohammad Farouq, head of the political affairs department in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and General Mohammad Mahfouz, head of the Political Affairs Department of the State Information Services, a report was presented about the work and revolutionary struggle of the courageous forces of Badakhshan Province to restore peace and security and further consolidate the government authority in the surroundings of this province. Yasin Sadeqi then assessed the work of the session and specified the duties and responsibilities of those attending the session to intensify the struggle against the counterrevolutionaries and to consolidate government authority.

According to another report the political heads of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and of the state information service, accompanied by Esra'il Razi, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee and secretary of the Badakhshan Provincial Party Committee, visited departments, political lecture halls, and dormitories, of the 24th regiment and other units and companies of the Armed Forces in Badakhshan Province.

Speaking with officers and men of the units and companies, the visitors expressed satisfaction and delight with the bravery and heroism of some of the officers and men in crushing the counterrevolutionaries, in establishing tranquility, and in securing a peaceful life for the working peoples of this province. The visitors asked for their further efforts in fighting for the realization of the lofty objectives of the April revolution.

Foreign Minister Leads Delegation to UN Session
LD162146 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 16 Sep 84

[Text] Shah Mohammad Dost, the minister of foreign affairs, heading a delegation, left for New York this morning to take part in the 39th Session of the UN General Assembly.

Mohammad Khan Jalalar, the minister of commerce; the deputy ministers and some staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and F.A. Tabeyev, the Soviet ambassador in Kabul were present at Kabul airport to see the delegation off.

According to another report a telegram of congratulations from Shah Mohammad Dost addressed to the foreign minister of Vietnam has been sent to Hanoi on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DRA and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Nuriyev, Delegation Depart for Moscow 14 Sep

LD141939 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Sep 84

[Text] The Soviet delegation led by Ziya Nuriyevich Nuriyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and vice chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, today left Kabul for Moscow. The deleagtion was in Kabul to attend the fourth session of the permanent commission for Afghan-Soviet economic cooperation.

At Kabul International Airport, the delegation was seen off by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; Sarwar Mangal, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the DRA State Planning Committee; some members of the DRA Council of Ministers; and Fikryat Akhmedzhanovich Tabeyev, Soviet ambassador in Kabul.

Report on Nuriyev Interview

LD160612 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0447 GMT 16 Sep 84

[Text] Kabul, September 15, BAKHTAR — Ziya Nuriyev, deputy chairman of USSR Council of Ministers, in an interview with a correspondent of *HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR* said that the Soviet Union's delegation firmly believes that the people of Afghanistan led by the PDPA will be scoring a complete victory in their right struggles.

He stated that taking measures for the stabilisation of situation and the economic growth form one of the major aspects of the activities of the DRA. The realisation of these measures is not simple. The expansion and deepening of economic cooperation, growth of trade and all-sided assistance of the Soviet Union to Afghanistan play a major role in this connection.

The recently-concluded fourth session of the standing intergovernmental Afghan-Soviet Economic Cooperation Commission assessed the performances of the previous decisions and agreement reached between the Afghan and the Soviet Union's delegations in major aspects of deepening cooperation between the two countries.

Ziya Nuriyev added that the commission appreciated the achievements made in the sphere of agriculture and irrigation. The Soviet Union has made considerable assistance to Afghanistan and continues to do so.

The delegations of the two countries agreed to expedite the work in the spheres of survey of mines, state transport, fuel and energy.

The commission attached special importance to trade under which the exchange of goods will be carried out in the next five years as planned.

Border trade between SSR Republics of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan and the northern provinces of Afghanistan will be expanded.

Replying to another question on the future prospects of economic relations between the two countries, the head of the Soviet Union's delegation said that they look to the future optimistically.

All forms of cooperations between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan will be expanded and deepened and will be made for the consolidation of friendship between the peoples of both countries and for the cause of peace throughout the world, he concluded.

Kabul Radio Program Carries Citizens' Complaints

LD131250 [Editorial Report] Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto and Dari at 1035 GMT on 11 September 1984 carries the scheduled "Radio, Voice of the People" phone-in program.

Interspersed between musical interludes, listeners phone in with the following complaints and suggestions: That the program producer should visit Takhar Province and see the people's problems, which are unspecified, first hand — which the producer promises to do; Kabul lacks drinking water pipes, public telephone boxes and electrical connections to several houses; the lack of a bakery shop in the Aqa Ali Shams area of Kabul; people talk for too long on public telephones; a library should be opened at Qandahar Airport; another library should be opened in Pol-e Khomri, Baghlan Province; the purchaser of a gas cylinder says he does not want to buy cylinders which he believes are manufactured in Pakistan — he is assured by a gas company representative that the cylinders are made in Thailand or Japan; bus drivers are impolite; school students are not wearing regulation school uniforms; further complaints about public call boxes not working; and a schoolgirl complains about a shortage of drinking water at her school.

The program ends with more music.

President Indicates Martial Law Relaxation

BK151613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Sep 84

[Text] The Bangladesh president, Lieutenant General Ershad, has indicated that the martial law will be relaxed gradually before parliamentary election. Talking to newsmen at Dhaka Airport before his departure to Baghdad on a 3-day visit to Iraq, General Ershad said he is hopeful that parliamentary election will be held as scheduled.

Ershad Leads Delegation on 3-Day Visit to Iraq

BK151230 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 0900 GMT 15 Sep 84

[Excerpts] President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad left Dhaka this morning on a 3-day state visit to Iraq at the invitation of President Saddam Husayn. Mrs Raushan Ershad is accompanying the president. Other members of the president's delegation include Professor Mohammad Yusuf Ali, relief and rehabilitation minister; A.R. Yusuf, special assistant to the president and in charge of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism; and Zakir Khan Chowdhury, adviser to the President and chairman of the Central Command Council of the Bangladesh freedom fighters organization.

Talking to newsmen at Zia International Airport, the president said his visit will further strengthen the existing friendly ties and bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly countries. He said Bangladesh and Iraq are linked by religious, historic, cultural, and traditional ties.

The president said that during his stay in Baghdad he will hold official talks with President Saddam Husayn and other Iraqi leaders on wideranging subjects, including bilateral, regional, and international issues of common interest. The fratricidal war between Iraq and Iran is expected to figure in the talks.

He said that visits were exchanged between the two countries at different levels and these have built a firm foundation for cooperation. Several agreements have already been signed between Bangladesh and Iraq: the economic and technical cooperation agreement, the trade and cultural cooperation agreement, and the agreement on manpower and on the setting up of a joint commission at the ministerial level. Since its independence, Bangladesh has received liberal assistance from Iraq in its developmental drive.

He said Bangladesh and Iraq express similar views on many regional and international issues. These two countries firmly believe in the principles and objectives of the UN Charter, Islamic Conference Organization, and Nonaligned Movement. Bangladesh has registered its grave concern on the Gulf war and firmly expressed the view that this fratricidal war poses a great threat to the Islamic community. We pray to Almighty God for finding immediately a just and peaceful solution to this problem. General Ershad said he is carrying with him a message of goodwill and love of the people of Bangladesh for the brotherly people of Iraq.

In reply to a question, the president described his visit as bilateral and said that during his talks with President Saddam Husayn he will get the opportunity to learn the views and thoughts of the Iraqi president on the Gulf war.

He told a questioner he is very hopeful of the participation of the opposition parties in the forthcoming election. He said the country belongs to everyone and we all wish a happy and prosperous future for the country.

Among others who gave a sendoff to the president at the airport were Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, the Council of Ministers, diplomats, and senior officials.

Reportage on Iraq Visit

For Iraqi media coverage of President Hussain Mohammed Ershad's visit to Iraq, including his arrival and talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, see the Iraq section of the 17 September Middle East & Africa *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Ershad Addresses Narayanganj City Leaders

BK151159 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 15 Sep 84

[Text] The president and chief martial law administrator [CMLA], Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, has said all the programs of his government aim at the balanced development of all parts of the country and bring about improvement in the condition of the peasants, workers, and neglected masses. He was addressing the leaders of all sections of people of Narayanganj including the Poura Sabha [municipality] chairman and commissioners, union parishad [council] chairman, and leaders of the Mukti Jodha Sangsad [Freedom Fighters Council] and labor, business, and industrial organizations who called on him at the CMLA secretariat in Dhaka yesterday evening. The president said despite limited resources his government will go on implementing all these developmental programs to improve the lot of the common man. He said we have manifold problems but, with sincere efforts and hard work by all, we shall be able to overcome them and continue our march forward to progress and prosperity. Referring to the economic importance of Narayanganj, our leading industrial and business center, the president assured that all possible steps will be taken to develop this important river port city.

The jute and textile minister, Mr M. Korban Ali, and advisers to the president Mr Zakir Khan Chowdhury and Mr M.A. Sattar were present on the occasion. Earlier, the leaders of the Narayanganj expressed their total confidence in the leadership of President Ershad and extended their wholehearted support to the programs undertaken by his government for the development of the country.

Prime Minister Comments on Current Issues

Border Threat

BK151625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Sep 84

[Text] The prime minister has emphasized that unity and discipline are essential prerequisites for all-round progress and development. Addressing the jawans [soldiers] at the MEG [expansion ukknown] center Bangalore, Mrs Gandhi referred to the various problems confronting the nation. She said communal strife, linguistic, and parochial differences weaken the nation's unity and strength. She said that the country's defense forces are ready to face any threat from across the border. Defense preparedness is given the highest priority in view of tension prevailing in this part of the world. She, however, said that India is always desirous of having peaceful relations with the neighbors. But the country's keenness for peace should not be mistaken. [as heard]

Economic Development, Presidential System

BK161119 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Sep 84

[Text] The prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, has said that food, employment, and productivity are the basic objectives of the seventh 5-year plan. Replying to a civic reception extended by the Bangalore City Corporation last evening, the prime minister said that special emphasis will be laid on developing backward areas with the view to bring them on par with other developed areas. She said the center is giving equal importance to the development of urban areas.

Earlier, addressing a public meeting Mrs Gandhi said that she would not recommend a change in the present form of government to bring in presidential system. She said debate whether the parliamentary system or the presidential form of government is suitable is not new. It was launched by intellectuals, lawyers, and industrialists as far back as 1966. Mrs Gandhi said she had agreed for a discussion on the subject to allow the people to discuss its merits and shortcomings.

Addressing the Mahila Congress [women's wing of Congress], Mrs Gandhi said the opposition parties are blowing out of proportion the recent developments in Andhra Pradesh and hoodwinking the people with the slogan of "democracy in danger".

Sri Lankan Tamils

BK161709 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Sep 84

[Excerpts] The prime minister has said that the killing of Tamils in Sri Lanka is a matter of concern to the entire world and it must be put to an end. Mrs Gandhi was inaugurating the 1,000th coronation anniversary celebrations of Raja Raja Chola at Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu today. She said we are concerned not just over the problems of Tamils in Sri Lanka but over the larger problems of human rights which are of concern to the entire world.

The prime minister said whatever we do or say on the issue of Sri Lanka should not put the Tamils in Sri Lanka in more difficulties or danger. She said the Tamils went all over the world, and with their sweat and toil built nations like Malaysia, Mauritius, Singapore, Sri Lanka, South Africa and West Indies. Wherever they went they have taken friendship, and in most places they are treated well and are working with the local population with a sense of togetherness. However, there are other places where they are suffering.

The prime minister said our minds and hearts are with the Tamils, who lost their dear ones and whose livelihood and very lives are being threatened. We share the anguish, the security, and justice as full citizens. The nation's moral support is with them, she added.

Mrs Gandhi also warned the nation about the fissiparous tendencies and said that outside forces are trying to encourage them. The responsibility of safeguarding the integrity of the country rests not only with the center and the states, but also with the people of the country. If the people stand united, no outside force can prevent our success and march toward progress, she said.

Earlier, addressing party workers at Tiruchi airport, Mrs Gandhi emphasized the need to fight narrow tendencies in the name of religion and language.

The prime minsiter has since returned to the capital after a 2-day visit to Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Report of Plan To Attack Pakistani Plant Denied

BK150726 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Sep 84

[Text] New Delhi has described as utterly baseless and ridiculous a news report broadcast in the United States that India is planning to attack the Pakistan nuclear installations. Official sources say that India is primarily interested in normalization of relations with Pakistan. The American Broadcasting Corporation in a nationwide telecast has said that the Central Intelligence Agency had told a group of U.S. senators that India had a plan to destroy Pakistan's nuclear installations.

Rama Rao Asked To Form Government

BK160801 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 16 Sep 84

[Text] Mr N.T. Rama Rao has been invited by the governor to form the government. Mr Bhaskara Rao has earlier resigned. Earlier, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet held a meeting in Hyderabad this morning. Soon after the meeting, the chief minister, Mr Bhaskara Rao, called on the governor, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, at the Raj Bhawan [Governor's House]. Later, Mr

Bhaskara Rao told newsmen that he sought the governor's intervention for what he called the release of the captive members of Legislative Assembly held at the Ramakrishna studios.

Cabinet Sworn In

BK161259 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 16 Sep 84

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, a 9-member Cabinet headed by Mr N.T. Rama Rao has been sworn in. The governor, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, administered the oath of office and secrecy to the ministers at a ceremony held in Raj Bhawan this afternoon. Along with Mr Rama Rao, 8 Cabinet ministers have also been sworn in. They are: Mr Srinivasulu Reddy, Mr P. Mahendranath, Mr Ananda Gajapati Raju, Mr K. Jana Reddy, Mr Jogayya, Mrs Pratibha Bharati, Mr Y. Ramakrishnudu, and Mr Mohammed Shamir. All of them were Cabinet ministers in the early Rama Rao ministry. Mr Ramachandra Rao, who is also named as a minister, will be sworn in later as he is out of station.

Later, speaking to newsmen Mr Rama thanked the center for, what he called, honoring the will of the people. He said he would work for the unity and intgrity fo the country.

A spokesman of the opposition party supporting Mr Rama Rao told our Hyderabad correspondent that they will continue to extend support to Mr Rama Rao. He, however, said the legislators would support him from outside.

Before the swearing in Mr Rama Rao said that he has requested the governor to convene the assembly on next Thursday as scheduled. He said he would seek a vote of confidence earlier than the time of 1 month given by the governor to prove his majority. The election of the speaker will be an item on the agenda, he added.

As reported earlier, in a day of swift developments Mr Bhaskara Rao submitted the resignation of his Cabinet to the governor. Following this the governor invited Mr Rama Rao to form the ministry.

Minister Seeks Confidence Motion

BK170938 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Sep 84

[Text] The Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, has announced that he would seek a vote of confidence on Thursday itself when the state assembly meets.

Addressing a meeting of the legislators and supporters in Hyderabad today, he said the agenda for the meeting of the assembly has been finalized. The speaker's election will be first item on the agenda, followed by a condolence motion on the death of a sitting member. Mr Rama Rao said that he will move a motion of confidence immediately after the condolence motion. The chief minister said that the governor has given 30 days' time, but he is seeking a vote of confidence on the very 1st day of the session.

Mr Rama Rao said that he has expressed his thanks to the president, the prime minister, and the state governor on the telephone for safeguarding the democratic process in Andhra Pradesh.

Mr P. Upendra, general secretary of the [Telugu Desam] Party, said that Mr K. Ramachandra Rao, who could not take the oath of office yesterday, will be sworn in today.

Special Police Squads Instituted in Punjab

BK151044 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Sep 84

[Text] In Punjab, special police squads have been set up in all districts to effectively deal with the activities of terrorists. The director general of police, Mr K.S. Dhillon, told All India Radio Chandigarh correspondent that these squads will be headed by experienced deputy superintendents of police. He said about a dozen suspects have been rounded up in connection with the shooting of the bus passengers near Batala on Wednesday last. Mr Dhillion said the interrogation is continuing and police is confident of achieving a breakthrough.

Meanwhile, security arrangements in the state have been further tightened. All buses in the state operating after dark will now carry armed guards. The security of trains, tracks and other vulnerable spots in the state have been strengthened. The mopping up operations by the security forces to apprehend terrorists still at large have also been intensified. Vigilance on the border has been more stringent to check any illicit traffic of arms and criminals across the border.

Natwar Singh Leaves for Beijing Border Talks

BK141619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Sep 84

[Text] The secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr Natwar Singh, left for Beijing tonight to resume the fifth round of talks on the Sino-India border question. He is leading an official delegation at the talks.

Before emplaning, Mr Singh told our correspondent that during his week-long stay in Beijing, he would discuss the border issue with his Chinese counterpart at great length and in depth.

The talks are taking place after nearly 11 months.

Commentary Previews Talks

BK161505 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1340 GMT 16 Sep 84

[Commentary by Sunil Roy of PTI]

[Text] Top Indian and Chinese officials have once again gathered in Beijing for the fifth round of official level talks beginning on 17 September. The focal point of the talks is the border issue, and at stake is the disputed area of 90,000 square km in the northeast and 25,000 square km in the Aksai Chin area on the northwest.

Both India and China are in agreement that the settlement of the border issue hanging fire since the mid-50's is at the center of bilateral relations that remained tenuous over two decades and a half. The border issue became still more crucial since China sought its solution through an undeclared war and its dramatic unilateral withdrawal from occupied Indian territory in October 1962.

The fifth round of talks is going to take place almost a year after the last meeting in New Delhi. In the earlier rounds of talks, the first of which was held in Beijing in December 1981, each side sought to reiterate its position and went fairly deep into the various aspects of the dispute. Both sides failed to come to grips with the basic and fundamental aspects of the border issue. One of the acceptable basis of talks was to go back to the proposals put forward by six countries at the Colombo Conference in December 1962. India made a suggestion that the Colombo Conference proposals be tried out once again as the basis of discussion. This conference of six nonaligned nations was attended by Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, UAR, and Ghana [Sri Lanka dropped]. Apart from suggesting negotiations to settle the Sino-Indian boundary dispute the conference said that efforts should be continued until a final settlement to this problem could be negotiated directly between the two governments.

The Indian suggestion for reverting to the Colombo proposals is one of the ways of starting off from the point at which talks have broken after the 1962 conflict has been rejected by China. Since it did not concede by implication the existence of any large difference between the status of the area unilaterally occupied by Beijing in strategic Aksai Chin without India's knowledge and the territory subsequently annexed through armed action, China has over the years been talking of a comprehensive solution for the border dispute based on a package deal. This package deal would have given China the right to retain control of the Aksai Chin area through which the strategic Silk Road passes. The 771-km long Silk Road, also known as the Karakoram highway, now links Pakistan and China and is acclaimed as a miracle of road building skill.

For 20 years beginning in 1968 the Pakistan Army drove the highway through some of the worst, most inhospitable, and road resistant terrain. The new road cuts off at least 2,000 km of China's land route from Kashkar in Xinjiang autonomous region to the sea. It is now almost 3,200 km over land to Pakistan's port of Karachi instead of 5,400 km from the autonomous region to Shanghai. In military terms the Silk Road broadens the capability of the Chinese to project their military strength into the subcontinent. It is against this background that the package proposal of China has to be viewed.

Times without number the Chinese have insisted that not an inch of Indian territory has been occupied by China illegally. Even the Chinese leader, Mr Deng Xiaoping, is on record as saying that the dispute should be resolved on the basis of the present line of actual control. This is actually the crux of the Chinese package deal which has been rejected by India.

Shortly before he took off to Beijing the leader of the Indian official team, Mr K. Natwar Singh, asserted that India would not give up its well-established position on the border question. This would mean China giving up the occupied territory, a position in line with the unanimous resolution adopted by the Indian Parliament on the Chinese aggression in 1962.

India's proposal for a sector-by-sector approach to settle the border issue still remains unanswered by China in concrete terms, although some headway was made in this regard at the last round of talks in Delhi. The inclusion of a senior official in the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in the official delegation suggests that the question of exchanges in the field of culture would also figure in the forthcoming talks. The issue of increasing trade has already been settled through a separate agreement concluded last month. Despite absence of any clear-cut proposal at the negotiating table it can be said that the fifth round of talks is expected to be held in a more positive atmosphere.

Reportage on Border Talks

For PRC media coverage of the fifth round of talks between Chinese and Indian officials on cultural, scientific, and technological exchanges and the border issue, see the A and F sections of the 12 September China *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Radio Reports Bombing by Afghan Planes

BK141527 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Sep 84

[Text] Four Afghan planes violated Pakistan's airspace at Satra Shikra, about 8 km from Spinwam in northern Waziristan, at 0935 this morning. They dropped eight bombs. However no one was killed or wounded.

An official announcement in Islamabad said that the Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this afternoon and a protest was lodged over the violation of Pakistan's airspace. He was told that Pakistan has taken particular notice of the repeated violations of its airspace and territorial boundaries by Afghanistan. The current air violation is the 10th since 13 August. The Afghan charge d'affaires was asked to tell the Kabul authorities that the situation may worsen if the series of violations are not stopped. The Kabul authorities will be fully responsible for this.

The Pakistani envoy at the United Nations was apprised of this fresh violation of Pakistan's airspace by Afghanistan and he has been directed to inform the UN secretary general of the matter.

U.S.TV Report on Possible Indian Attack Noted

BK151035 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 15 Sep 84

[Text] The United States Senate has been alerted to the possibilitiy of a preemptive strike by India against Pakistan's nuclear facilities.

ABC TV, America's second largest network, has reported that in its closed-door briefing from administration and intelligence experts on potential trouble spots in the Near East and South Asia, the senators were told a conflict in South Asia could be triggered by India launching a preemptive attack against Pakistan's nuclear installations.

The experts alert follows a host of such warnings from many quarters. They have begun to be taken seriously since Israeli made its unprovoked strike against Iraq's reactor. There have even been suggestions that Israel might provide knowhow.

Acquisition of Nuclear Technology Supported

BK160912 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Sep 84

[Excerpt] Foreign press reports that India might attack Pakistan's nuclear installations have caused a wave of indignation among the people and further intensified the determination of the Pakistani people to unitedly counter all external threats.

People from various walks of life, including members of the Federal Advisory Council and the provincial councils, elected councillors, and prominent workers of the Pakistan movement have sharply reacted to these reports and extended full support to the government's efforts to acquire nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. They stressed that Pakistan is spending a major share of its foreign exchange on oil imports to meet its ever-increasing energy needs. The country cannot depend on oil imports forever to maintain its economy and industrial development and the acquisition of nuclear technology is a must for it to meet its future energy needs.

Yaqub Khan To Meet Gromyko, De Cuellar at UN

BK170618 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 17 Sep 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan left Islamabad for New York this morning to lead the Pakistan delegation at the 39th session of the UN General Assembly beginning on 18 September.

Talking to newsmen at the Islamabad airport, he said he will hold talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko and UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar on the situation emerging after the third round of indirect talks on Afghanistan in Geneva and on preparations for the fourth round of negotiations which is expected to be held in February next year.

Answering a question, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said the resolution on Afghanistan will definitely again come up for debate in the General Assembly and Pakistan will try to get maximum support for the resolution.

Khomeyni Warns Against Enemy Propaganda

LD141456 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 14 Sep 84

[Speech by Ayatollah Khomeyni at Jamaran Religious Center on 14 September during a meeting with Friday imam of Mashhad and some ulema and officials from Khorasan Province on the occasion of 'Id Ghadir Khom. Khomeyni speaks for 28 minutes — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the Name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Prolonged sobbing of the audience] I also congratulate the beloved guests from the holy land of Imam Reza [Khorasan Province], peace be upon him, on this great feast. [sobbing of the audience] You have come from the center of knowledge, the center of divine knowledge. [sobbing of the audience]

You must consider the difficulties. You must be aware of the satans who are trying to find something here or there to blow out of proportion over their loudspeakers. Why do you provide food for these foreign loudspeakers every day, so that they make propaganda against you? I consider it my duty to bring this matter to your attention here; otherwise I did not intend to say anything; I realized it was a duty. The satans have started again and on the basis of what I had said [in one of his speeches about the government], they have said that since he [Khomeyni] said that, the government must have been wrong.

Did I say the government was wrong? I only gave advice. God also advised the prophet. God has also advised the faithful. When I say do something, it does not mean that you have been committing offenses heretofore. You must wake up a bit and pay attention. Do not do these things. Pay attention to issues. Do not oppose the officials who are sacrificing their lives for Islam and who are in danger of being killed every day. Help each other. Stick together. If you are not together you will be defeated; if you are defeated, Islam will be defeated. If heaven forbid, Islam is defeated, it will not be able to get up again for many years, because the superpowers have realized that Islam has power. You must preserve the power of Islam. I beg to the Almighty to wake us up; to wake up Muslims; to wake up the governments in Islamic lands; to make our nation victorious; to make you victorious; to make our Army victorious; to make all our Armed Forces victorious, with success and blessings; to grant all the nation ample success and health and to help us be servants of Islam. May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. [Audience chants slogans praising Khomeyni]

Khomeyni Receives Military, Government Officials

Ground Forces Commander

LD151108 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Sep 84

[Text] Colonel Seyyed Shirazi, commander of the Ground Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The family of the late Ayatollah Ashtiani was also received by the imam of the nation.

Heavy Industries Minister

LD161343 Tehran IRNA in English 1337 GMT 16 Sep 84

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 16, IRNA — Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nabvi met and conferred with the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni today.

During the meeting, the heavy industries minister gave a report to the imam on the ministry's affairs.

Montazeri Sees 'War Week' Resulting in Offensive

LD141832 Tehran IRNA in English 1734 GMT 14 Sep 84

[Text] Qom, Sept 14, IRNA — The head of the War Information Headquarters, Dr Kamal Kharrazi, and members of the 'war week' committee were received by Ayatollah Montazeri here today.

Ayatollah Montazeri said the publicity activities during the War Week, from September 22-29, should result in an offensive against the enemy forces.

He also prayed for a victorious end in the war.

Urges Preparation for Victory

LD152003 Tehran IRNA in English 1727 GMT 15 Sep 84

[Text] Tehran, sept. 15, IRNA — The Iranian people should contemplate and prepare themselves for the final decision and ultimate victory in the battle fronts, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri told a large group of visitors in Qom Friday [14 September].

He said the issue was clear for the people: Saddam Husayn launched an aggression against the Islamic Republic on behalf of the superpowers and now he should be punished and pay reparations.

"The Koran states explicitly that when a group of Muslims attack and oppress another group of Muslims, the aggressor and the oppressor should be fought in order to make him surrender to divine laws," Ayatollah Montazeri said.

"First of all, we do not consider Saddam Husayn and the Ba'th party members as Muslims. Even if they were Muslims, everyone knows Saddam Husayn initiated this imposed war on the Islamic Revolution and our people."

"Now, we are saying what the Koran states. Saddam Husayn must surrender to God's commands which call for the punishment of the aggressor, his condemnation and the payment of reparations to those he oppressed and launched aggression against."

Khamene'i Friday Sermon Discusses Recent Trip

LD141545 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1038 GMT 14 Sep 84

[Excerpts] On the auspicious anniversary of the bounteous 'Id Ghadir Khom, millions of our homeland's Muslim, God-seeking people, by their extensive participation in the glorious Friday prayer ceremonies throughout the country, once again emphasized their sincere adherence to the edifying and inspiring school of thought of the lord of the faithful, Imam 'Ali, may peace be upon him. In Tehran, too, in Tehran University and surrounding streets, a vast congregation of the ubiquitous people who love the principle of the imamate and velayat-e faqih [rule of theocracy], observed the magnificent Friday prayer under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

Tehran's Friday imam, at the outset of his second Friday prayer sermon this week, referring to the forthcoming ceremonies on 'war week', one of the greatst events of our nation, emphasized: Glorifying this week honors the just position of the Iranian nation in its legitiamte defense of the revolution, the Islamic Republic, and the borders of our Islamic homeland. It also reminds one of the unprecedented zeal displayed by our nation during these 4 years of an imposed war. The president of the republic then expounded on the aims and very fruitful results of his recent visit to the fraternal countries of Syria, Libya, and Algeria. He said: In the first place that trip took place with the aim of seriously raising the Palestine problem. Recalling the ignominious results of the shameful Camp David accords, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i said: Six years ago, when this treacherous agreement was concluded thanks to the intervention of the disgraceful rulers of Egypt, the problem of Israel, considered the greatest calamity to befall the Islamic world, was relegated to oblivion. The Egyptians withdrew from the circle of war and the Palestine problem lost its serious aspect.

The Palestine nation's leaders, instead of carrying out serious practical work, embarked more on political issues. Their material needs caused them even to spread the rumor of a reconciliation with Israel in Palestinian quarters — something which could not be repeated in front of a single Palestinian!

The reactionary regimes in the region, too, have either extended a hand of friendship, reconciliation, and abjectness toward Israel or have declared their support for these ignominious measures. Finally, the outcome of this cold indifference toward the Palestine issue has been such that a Muslim could continue to languish in homelessness so that a chunk of the Islamic homeland could remain in the clutches of the usurping Zionists. At last it became clear that the United States, Zionists, and their allies have succeeded in turning the Palestine problem into a historical issue.

The president of the republic added: This is intolerable for us and the Islamic Republic of Iran is doubly sensitive to the Palestine problem. First, this problem is not confined to the Palestinians and Arabs, but is an Islamic problem. Accordingto Islam's canonical dictums, whenever Muslims' enemies triumph over a part of Islamic land, the duty of defending that land is entrusted to all Muslims. Furthermore, fighting the Jerusalem occupiers and Zionists is tantamount to a face-to-face confrontation with the United States' racist leaders.

Mr Khamene'i added: Nevertheless, in view of the slight impression which the Palestine issue is making in the world, particularly among the Muslim nations, including the Palestinians themselves, we thought that we could raise aloft and fly the flag of Palestine and thereby inject fresh blood into the body of this withered issue. Therefore, we chose the three friendly countries of Syria, Libya and Algeria. At present, Syria is the only country to feel with utter bitterness the heavy burden of the Zionists and to be determined seriously and decisively to struggle against the Zionists. But the countries of Libya and Algeria have never given up the slogan of supporting the Palestine issue and Palestinians.

The president of the republic added:

[Begin recording] Our move was an offensive one. Very soon the United States, the leaders of U.S. policy and the instruments dependent on that policy — that is, the Israelis and Egyptians — and all the world propaganda instruments subservient to them adopted a stance of piqued reaction. We could have announced it beforehand, but we carried out that task without a previous announcement. This blow suddenly fell on the heads of the hatchers of the anti-Islamic and antirevolutionary plots. They were suddenly caught unawares and therefore reacted with pique.

The first sign that they were piqued was the fact that they attempted to misrepresent the aims of the visit. Despite the fact that we announced the fact and — well, the whole thing would have been made known during our talks or spoken of later in interviews. It was natural that these things would be broadcast and the entire world would understand what the aim of our visit was. But these people thought that if the aim of that visit was kept from the world for a while, it would be a gain for them. Therefore they began to speak of a number of hypothetical, imaginary, unreal aims; in the first 1 or 2 days they did their utmost not to mention a thing about the the actual aim of our visit, the problem of Palestine.

Of course, we are surprised by the Zionist networks throughout the world to which these five well-known world news agencies are subservient! It is very natural for AP, UPI, REUTER and others, which are often run by the hands of the Zionists — it is natural for these people not to tolerate such a move, against Zionism, an arrow in the heart of the Zionist enemy, and not to disseminate the news correctly. But our amazement, and we have no problem in stating this amazement, is with the neighboring, friendly Muslim governments who unfortunately fell under the influence of Zionist propaganda; during the first days they were unable to state the aims of the visit correctly to the people, to their own people! Perhaps certain governments feel that by stating the aims of this visit, the positive initiative made by the Islamic Republic, they might be subjected to questioning by their own nations. Perhaps this is how it is!

At a time when the flight of hijacked Iranian aircraft across the air space of this or that country or its landing in the same country attracted correct reporting by certain papers and Muslim countries news agencies — this important event, which involved the

honor of the Islamic world and could result in a move by the Muslim masses, an event which pursued the hope and chief demand of the Islamic world — that is, the Palestine issue — was regrettably met by connivance, concealment, and coverup by these news agencies. Of course, we hope that this policy was not the policy of the governments but rather the policy of the news agencies and newsmen themselves. These people's position is well know: They receive money and are prepared to disseminate lies among the people for the least reward. At any rate this was an offensive move, an innovative move, a serious move on the issue of Israel. Therefore it piqued the enemy. In other words, the Israelis themselves, the United States and others were caught unawares and were annoyed. [loud cheers]

It is interesting that during the very first days of our visit when it was announced that we would strive for the expulsion of Israel from the United Nations and would have talks and an exchange of views with friendly governments, the U.S. President announced that if Israel is expelled from the United Nations the United States, too, will leave the United Nations! This demonstrated that our move was an effective one which forced the United States to react at the level of its President. Of course, our riposte to this issue is clear. We say that if the United States refrains from leaving the United Nations over this issue, at last the day would come when we should strive to expel the iniquitous racist United States from the United Nations! [loud cheers] [end recording]

Tehran's Friday imam then spoke of the welcome given by the heads of the three friendly states of Syria, Libya, and Algeria to the Islamic Republic of Iran's plan to struggle against the Zionists and the agreements reached in this respect. He said: The fact we paid attention to during that visit was that the problem of Israel is not separate from the United States. We have never committed the error that a government could be a friend and ally of the United States but would wage war against Israel. Israel today is the United States' industrial, political, and military base in the region. Were the United States to lift its protection from Israel the Islamic countries would be able to solve this problem in a short time. International and U.S. equipment, money, weapons, and influence have been able to protect this rootless and eclectic nation.

In addition, we raised the subject of setting up a committee for defending the rights of U.S. blacks during that visit, which was greatly welcomed. Continuing, the president of the republic expounded the painful and fatal situation of more than 40 million U.S. Negroes, and said: We wish to defend the rights of blacks deprived of culture and humane conditions; 40 million men are suffering in a developed society of ease and high earnings which is ready to transgress against the farthest parts of the world to further its gains. In the name of the committee for defending the rights of U.S. blacks, we call on the world's freedom-seekers to join this committee.

At the conclusion of his second sermon the Supreme Defense Council chairman emphasized that the problem of the imposed war has only one solution, that is the removal of Saddam Husayn from oppressed and deprived Iraq. He said: We have explained to all that the greatest military conquests are worthless to us while Saddam Husayn is in charge, and that if we topple that regime we would have no ambitions on Iraqi soil. For this reason we will bring the greatest pressure to bear for the downfall of Iraq's present regime.

Ardebili Rejects Iraqi Claim of Attack on Basra

LD160905 Tehran IRNA in English 0854 GMT 16 Sep 84

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 16, IRNA — International and Economic Affairs Deputy Foreign Minister, Kazempour Ardebili here Sunday [16 September] categorically denied allegations of the Iraqi regime concerning the attack of Iranian artillery against residential areas in the suburbs of Basra.

He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran, after four years of experience in defending its territory against aggressions of the Baghdad regime, had realised that such allegations were mere excuses for committing further crimes against the Muslim people of Iran.

Kazempour Ardebili noted that following the U.N.'s call on halting attacks against residential quarters, over forty cases of Iraqi infringement had been reported to the U.N. delegation stationed in Tehran.

During all these cases, the Foreign Ministry official said, the Islamic Republic in order to prevent intensification of the Iraqi crimes and based on humanitarian principles, had refrained from retaliatory measures.

He also stressed that making such allegations, especially on the threshold of the meeting of the U.N. General Assembly, was an opportunist measure to pretend to be in the right stance vis-a-vis those who had strongly condemned Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons in its war imposed on Iran.

By resorting to such propaganda and allegations, the Iraqi regime intended to justify itself before public opinion, which was severely pressuring it, since Iran would discuss Iraq's employment of chemical weapons against Islamic combatants, Kazempour Ardebili said.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

No 1,850

LD141703 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 14 Sep 84

[Text] Tehran, Sept 14, IRNA — A military communique published here today said that at least 27 enemy soldiers had been killed and or wounded in sporadic artillery fighting along the western and the north western fronts on Thursday.

The communique number 1,850 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces said that in the north western fronts on Thursday Iran's Muslim combatants had wrecked one mortar launcher of the enemy troops and levelled five of their heavy guns emplacements killing at least ten of them.

In the western fronts Iran's Muslim combatants levelled three large bunkers of the Iraqi troops on Thursday and also pounded

six surveillance posts of the Iraqi troops. They knocked out one enemy truck along with its crew and also blasted one ammunitions depot of the Iraqi troops.

In Mehran where the exchange of artillery fire was fiercer than elsewhere in the battle fronts 17 enemy soldiers were killed or wounded.

Elsewhere in the southern fronts the Iranian forces kept a watchful eye on the enemy forces along Bajliyeh, Shahrani and Zubaydah and checked their movements on Thursday.

In Nahr-e Anvar enemy patrol units fled the area under a shower of artillery fire from the Iranian troops, while ten artillery emplacements of the Iraqi troops west of the Arvand River were set abalze.

The Joint Staff communique said that four houses and two shops had been hit and damaged in Abadan under long range artillery fire of the Iraqi troops from across the border, while two areas in the city caught fire upon being hit by missiles or shrapnel.

No 1,851

LD151734 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 15 Sep 84

[Text] Tehran, Sept 15, IRNA — A military communique published here today said that at least 15 enemy soldiers had been killed or wounded in sporadic artillery battles between Iran's Muslim combatants and the Iraqi troops in Hajj 'Umran, Marivan, Panjwin and elsewhere in the western fronts while a number of the Iraqi troops had been killed by the Gendarmerie forces across the Arvand River throughout Friday.

The communique published by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces and numbered 1,851 said that on Friday the Iranian troops had levelled four artillery emplacements of the enemy forces as well as one of their concentration centres. The Iranian forces also checked enemy movements along Chuman-Mostafa, and the border heights of Kani Mangah.

In the western fronts the Iranian forces checked enemy movements inflicting casualties on them. In the said fronts the Iranian forces also set ablaze one ammunition depot of the enemy forces, levelled four heavy guns emplacements and pounded four enemy surveillance posts, killing three enemy soldiers.

At 1700 hours and later at 2100 hours on Thursday, two enemy patrol units were spotted near Qasr-e Shirin and Meymak and were showered with shells forcing them from the area. The exchange of artillery fire was fiercest in Khosravi border area.

In the battle fronts south of Iran the Iranian forces responded to enemy artillery fire and inflicted casualties upon them. Artillery battles raged heavier west of Jufayr.

Meanwhile the Gendarmerie forces levelled more than ten enemy emplacements across the Arvand Rud, killing an undetermined number of the Iraqi soldiers.

In other developments the Iraqi forces continued shelling Iran's southern city of Abadan on Friday damaging five houses and one shop. Also two persons were injured upon being hit by shrapnel in Abadan on Friday.

No 1,852

LD161541 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 16 Sep 84

[Text] Tehran, sept. 16, IRNA — At least 110 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded in the operational fronts during the preceding 24 hours. The breakdown amounted to 65 casualties in northwest, 20 in the west and 25 west of Arvand fronts, announced the Joint Staff Command Communique No 1,852 released touay.

The communique further said that Iraqi losses in the northwestern border fronts of Piranshah, Sar Dasht, Hajj 'Umran, Marivan and Panjwin included the destruction of seven weaponry positions, one truck carrying personnel. In the western fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam, four observation posts, two weaponry positions, one mortar launching pad and two trucks and in the southern fronts, 11 group and individual bunkers, two observation posts, one machine gun and four trucks were destroyed.

The jet fighters of the Air Force and the anti-aircraft defence units of the Islamic combatants thwarted the Iraqi air aggressions throughout the country.

Heavy artillery and mortar fire exchanges raged in all fronts during which the Islamic defenders suppressed Iraqi activities by zeroing in on their positions.

Ten houses and shops, and one school were damaged and fire broke out in four cases in Abadan when Iraqi aggressors shelled the city with their long-range fire Saturday, concluded the Joint Staff Command Communique.

Abadan, Khorramshahr Shelled

LD161705 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 16 Sep 84

[Text] Ahvaz, Sept. 16, IRNA — The port city of Abadan was subjected to the long-range artillery fire of Iraqi forces, during the past 24 hours, as a result of which one civilian was wounded and eight houses, two shops, a school and a hospital were damaged. Also four parts of city caught fire but were extinguished by firemen.

Also Khorramshahr and surrounding villages were subjected to Iraqi heavy gun fire damaging parts of the city, during the same period.

Aircraft Attack Iraqi Oil Jetties 16 Sep

LD161630 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 16 Sep 84

[Text] Tehran Sept. 16 IRNA — The jet fighters of the Islamic Republic pounded Iraqi oil jetties of Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah at 12:00 hours (8:30 GMT) today. According to the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces in this successful bombardment the Iraqi oil platforms were set on fire and considerable damage

and casualties were inflicted on the enemy. The Joint Staff also said that the jet fighters returned to their bases safely.

Liberian, S. Korean Vessels Attacked in Gulf

LD161103 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1044 GMT 16 Sep 84

[Text] REUTER, quoting shipping sources in Behrain, reports that a Liberian oil tanker and a South Korean cargo vessel today were targets of separate attacks by unidentified planes in the Persian Gulf. The Liberian oil tanker was identified as *Heron*, with a capacity of 60,656 tons. It was attacked in an area about 60 miles east of Qatar. The same sources added: The cargo vessel, with a capacity of 17,144 tons — identified as *Pan Crystal* — was attacked in the southern sector of Lavan Island.

Government Responsibility in Hijack Attempt Denied

LD161827 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Sep 84

[Text] Following the ASSOCIATED PRESS report indicating that during the hijacking of an Iraqi plane the pilot contacted the control tower of the Amman airport, stating that the hijackers were two Lebanese and a Cypriot who had been wounded inside the plane by Iraqi security personnel, the Iraqi regime's transport and communications minister announced that the three hijackers were Iranians and had been shot dead by security officers.

Following the claim made by the Iraqi regime about Iran's part in the hijacking, the under secretary of the Foreign Ministry in charge of international and economic affairs summoned the representative of the Red Crescent in Tehran to the Foreign Ministry tonight. While denying the accusation made by the Ba'thist regime, he described it as a conspiracy by the Iraqi Government to divert the world's attention. The under secretary of the Foreign Ministry added: This claim is deeply influenced by the aggressive actions of the Iraqi regime and its cooperation in repeated hijackings. The under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, while condemning all acts of air piracy, drew the attention of the Red Crescent representative to what the Iraqi pilot of the hijacked plane said to the control tower of the Amman airport in Jordan, that the hijackers were Lebanese and Cypriot nationals who were at the time unconscious. The under secretary of our Foreign Ministry told the Red Crescent representative: At this point many documents and much evidence point to the deep and continuous involvement of the said regime with hijackings and terrorist activities. It has become clear that the claim made by the Iraqi regime is baseless and is an effort to prepare the grounds for criminal acts in the future of the kind we have witnessed in the past. He also added: It is possible that Iraq might have martyred three unregistered Iranian POW's who have been in captivity for a long time and then falsely presented them as hijackers.

At this meeting the under secretary in charge of international and economic affairs asked the International Red Crescent to follow up the issue seriously and to stop the Iraqi regime from committing other crimes on this pretext.

Security Agents Foil Hijack Attempt

LD171037 Tehran IRAN in English 1031 GMT 17 Sep 84

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 17, IRNA — Iranian security agents have foiled an attempt by three persons to hijack an Iran Air flight from Tehran to Bushehr, the second attempt against an Iranian airliner in five days.

According to initial reports received by IRNA today, the three persons were armed and were arrested at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport upon the suspicion of security men.

They planned to commandeer the plane to France, reports said.

On Wednesday, four men tried to hijack an Iran Air flight from Shiraz to Tehran. But they were arrested by security agents in the plane following a clash which left two of the men and a security agent wounded and a passenger martyred.

The four men and a woman accomplice appeared on television Saturday night and apologised for their action. They said they aimed at taking the plane to Baghdad and expressed support for the Paris-based Monafeqin (MKO) terrorist organisation.

Passengers of Hijacked Boeing Return to Tehran

LD150936 Tehran IRNA in English 0928 GMT 15 Sep 84

[Text] Tehran, Sept 15, IRNA — The remaining number of passengers of the hijacked Iranian Boeing 727 airliner, commandeered to Iraq last Week, returned here at 0700 hours local time (0430 GMT), Saturday.

The passengers were taken back to Iran aboard a Lebanese plane five days after hijacking drama, during which the Iraqi regime refused to release the Iranian passengers.

The Iranian passenger plane hijacked on Bandar 'Abbas-Tehran route with 123 passengers and crew on board and after refuelling in Manama, Bahrain, departed for Cairo, Egypt, and was later flown to Baghdad according to a pre-managed plot.

While in Cairo, 52 passengers managed to escape and were later flown back to Iran, the remaining arrived here this morning.